

Kingston Guardian

August 11, 2016



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APPLY FOR CASH
CHARITIES CAN GRAB
SHARE OF £10K GRANT

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BEHIND BARS
JUDGE BLAST FOR
'IDIOT' DRUG DEALER

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HORROR SHOW
RHYDIAN FULL OF
MUSICAL MENACE

See page 13



Kingston Guardian

kingstonguardian.co.uk

August 11, 2016

60p

PIZZA THE MARKET



**Pizza chain granted alcohol licence but
is yet to receive planning permission**

REPORTERS

BY JON MITCHELL AND RACHAEL BURFORD

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KINGSTON'S ancient Market House is one step closer to becoming a pizza joint after the chain hoping to take it over was granted an alcohol licence.

The Stable has not yet gained planning permission to turn the listed building into its latest restaurant and is expected to bring conversion plans before Kingston Council later this year.

But councillors granted the Devon-based pizza, pie and cider chain permission to sell alcohol from 11am to 11pm every night of the week to people "waiting for a table or [who] are taking a table meal".

The Stable had reduced its alcohol sale proposals by 30 minutes from 11.30pm, or midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, after Kingston police branded the application "unacceptable".

The amended plans were presented to the licensing sub-committee last week and the company was informed of the decision on Monday.

The committee said: "[We] took account of the impact on residents adjacent to the Market Place who were already subjected to considerable noise from traders, shoppers and pedestrians from early each morning.

"The sub-committee noted concerns expressed about the possible music and alcohol led pub type nature of the operation based on observations of the applicant's Whitechapel premises."

Council environmental protection officer Richard Odell and Kingston police officers visited the Whitechapel branch. Mr Odell said at last week's meeting: "From my observations it is not a high-end restaurant.

"[To me] it is a cross between a Pizza Express and a public house. It is a lovely environment and I wouldn't mind drinking there. Would it fit in in Kingston?"

Chef Andy Cooper, who helped start the brand in 2009, bridled visibly at the character-

isation, and denied that the restaurant would be like the Whitechapel Stable, which is inside an old nightclub and still hosts live music.

He said Market House was a "sensitive building" and would cater to a "much broader demographic".

Under the approved plans, the restaurant will have to close at 11.30pm every day and gather in its outside seating by 8.15pm. Earlier this year the Market House's current traders set up an online and paper petition against converting the "unique visitor attraction". It has gathered about 15,000 signatures so far.

Nicky French, one of the independent traders who works in the building, said she expected a decision in September.

She said: "It is very difficult because the council seem to want it to go through.

"But we have not had a single person come in that thinks it is a good idea. No one seems to be for another pizza restaurant, especially in this building."

The Stable did not respond a request for comment.

All change? Market House in Kingston is moving closer to becoming a pizza restaurant
Picture: Gerald Taylor



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DRINK DRIVER: A drink-driver has been handed a suspended prison sentence after he was caught more than four times over the limit. John McCarthy, 31, of Woodstock Lane South, Chessington, was jailed for eight weeks, suspended for a year, at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on July 28. He was also banned for 29 months and must carry out 60 hours' unpaid work.

MEETING NOTICE: New Malden residents are being invited to put their questions to Kingston Council on redeveloping Cocks Crescent. The New Malden Residents' Association and Grove Residents' Association will hold a public meeting so that residents can share their views on what should be built on the derelict site in Blagdon Road on Thursday at the Malden Centre tonight from 7pm.

BEETLE BOOM: The globally endangered stag beetle is thriving in Kingston and Richmond. Britain's largest beetle is extinct across much of the UK but the greenery of south west London appears to be an ideal habitat. The beetles are particularly prevalent in north Surbiton, according to Wild London, which has recorded up to 178 per sq km. To report a stag beetle visit wildlondon.org.uk/stag-beetle-survey.

47-year-old who quit his job in PR to launch Bite Back charity will give talk at TEDx event

Diver Graham on a mission to stop restaurants serving up shark meat

REPORTER

JON MITCHELL

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A SCUBA diver quit his PR job in a crusade to rid restaurant menus across the country of shark meat, saying the feared predators "deserve our admiration".

Graham Buckingham, 47, is the founder of Norbiton-based marine conservation charity Bite Back, which has persuaded major retailers such as Asda and Iceland and Holland and Barrett to stop selling shark meat since it was set up in 2004.

He has been announced as one of the speakers for the upcoming TEDx talks in Kingston in November, having been inspired to transform perceptions of sharks while scuba diving in the Red Sea in 2001. TEDx talks are independently organised versions of the popular ideas-sharing conferences.

Mr Buckingham, of Piper Road, said: "I've no shame in saying that when I learned to dive the last thing I wanted to see under the water was a shark."

"But I started wondering why I wasn't seeing them in areas where sharks are renowned."

"It became hugely apparent that they were being fished."

"That's where it becomes particularly emotive, there are no two ways about it – it's horrible and barbaric," he added.

Mr Buckingham quit working in PR for a car company and set up the charity in a bid to rid restaurants and supermarkets of the famous dish shark fin soup.

Bite Back's biggest success came soon after its foundation when Asda removed shark meat from its shelves after the charity presented 3,000 emails in protest.

Mr Buckingham added: "It really got to the point where I was less

interested in the cars people were driving and more in the fish people were eating."

"I think when I started people thought I was slightly mad, but it's no longer a strange topic."

"It's so exciting that TEDx is coming to Kingston. It's just a fantastic opportunity to get the message across."

He believes the charity is now on the "home stretch" and will have rid the UK of the meat within two years, but says there is still work to be done with changing perceptions thanks to Hollywood films conveying sharks as frightening killers.

His 'Defending Jaws' talk is one of the first to be announced for TEDx, which begins on November 4.

Others include artist Hannah Catherine Jones's exploration of music and grief, called 'Grieving Aloud', and 'Lessons of a Goat Boy' by Community Brain director Rob-in Hutchinson.



Diving in: Graham Buckingham

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Andy Parkes, Editor
aparkes@london.newsquest.co.uk



New challenge: Brett Alderton pictured during his 2014 swingball marathon

Fundraiser Brett will scoot 122 miles

FUNDRAISERS taking on arduous athletic feats for charity is nothing new.

But a Surbiton man has taken the idea to another level as he plans in a week's time to ride a push-along scooter 122 miles without any training.

Brett Alderton, 38, hopes to raise £1,248 for Creative Youth, the charity that organises the International Youth Arts Festival, by scooting from Surbiton to Swanage.

The trip takes about three hours in a car. Mr Alderton is hoping he can complete it in three days. Laid-back Mr Alderton has not even purchased his scooter yet.

He said: "I'm giving myself two to three days. I'm going to go until it's dark and then sample the local hospitality. I haven't done any training. I guess I will have to swap legs as I'm going or just come back with one massive one."

This is not the first time Mr Alderton has taken on an unusual challenge. In 2014 he raised £2,000 by playing swingball for 24 hours at the Lamb pub. Mr Alderton plans to set off on his latest adventure on August 18.

He said: "Swanage seems to be the spiritual home of anyone from Surbiton who wants to be by the sea."

To donate visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/bretts-biscoot

Guardian

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No knocks for Jam

LONG lost letters have revealed mod legends The Jam were turned down by *Opportunity Knocks* after a disastrous audition in Surbiton.

Frontman Paul Weller's then girlfriend Jennifer Harvey applied for the band to audition for Hughie Green's ITV talent show in 1974 and unenthusiastic TV scouts put the group on a waiting list.

The trio were finally invited to audition for the 1976 series in Surbiton Town Hall.

They turned up just in time to go on after a tap act.

But The Jam's medley of Beatles covers failed to impress. The band never heard from the talent show again.

The original application letters were found by Paul Weller's sister Nicky while she was curating The Jam: About the Young Idea – the exhibition for Liverpool's Cunard Building on display until September 25.

Mr Weller has said he was relieved not to have made it on to the show which made stars of Su Pollard, Paul Daniels and Bonnie Langford.

He told music journalist Henry Deeds: "We played them a few of our own tunes. I can barely remember doing it. We were so s***. And thank God. I don't want to think what would have happened if we'd ended up getting on."

'Goodwill gesture' sees £100 donated by contractor after mix-up involving white van's turn

Coast walk fundraiser shocked to receive council traffic fine in error

REPORTER

JON MITCHELL

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A DEVON man who quit his job to spend two months hiking around the South West coast for charity was astonished to return home to a traffic violation fine from Kingston Council.

Jim Bray, 36, embarked on the 630-mile journey in June – walking on average 13.6 miles every day – to raise money for the Force Cancer Charity.

But when the former NHS press officer returned home on Friday, he found a £130 fine from Kingston Council saying he had made an illegal turn in Theford Road, New Malden, on July 10.

Mr Bray, who lives in Tiverton, Devon, was at a bed and breakfast in south Cornwall when he was accused of the driving offence.

He said: "Last year I had a health issue myself and I was encouraged to try and get out and walk a bit more. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience



Mix-up: Jim Bray was on a very long walk when Kingston Council thought it had caught him

and I'm very glad I decided to do it.

"I just opened the post last Friday morning and I was a bit surprised to see it.

"It wasn't so much anger, I just assumed it would be a

mistake. I had no intention of paying it."

Screenshots taken from CCTV sent to Mr Bray showed a white van making the illegal right turn, despite the fact that Mr Bray drives a

red Suzuki.

In response he wrote an open letter on Facebook jokingly asking Kingston Council to donate the potential £195 fine to his charitable causes.

The council has since pledged a £100 donation.

Mr Bray also suggested the council should "use the money to update your CCTV and number plate recognition systems".

He added: "Obviously I knew I hadn't driven a car since early June so I knew it must have been some sort of error.

"I've been to London a few times but I've never been to New Malden."

Mr Bray set off from Somerset on Friday, June 10 as part of the mammoth trek, eventually arriving at the finish line in Dorset last Thursday. So far, he has raised £7,000.

A Kingston Council spokesman said: "We apologise for the inconvenience caused to Mr Bray for what has been a basic administrative error by our contractor.

"The penalty charge notice has been cancelled and our contractors, NSL Services, have offered to make a donation of £100 to his chosen charities as a gesture of goodwill."

Up to 1,000 enjoy lantern festival



Promoting peace: Lanterns float at the Shinnyo-en UK Buddhist Centre

ALMOST 1,000 people gathered in Long Ditton for the annual Buddhist lantern floating festival.

The Shinnyo-en UK Buddhist Centre, based in Woodstock Lane, invited families, faith groups, and deputy mayor of Elmbridge Rachael Lake to the peaceful and serene event last Saturday.

The lanterns floated across the centre's lake in a bid to "illuminate a path to discover a bright-

er future". Lantern festivals were held at Shinnyo-en centres all over the world at the weekend to promote understanding, harmony and peace.

Rev Michiko Delucia, director of interfaith programmes for Shinnyo-en UK, said: "The ceremony provides the perfect opportunity for our community of Buddhists in Surbiton to continue to form closer bonds with our neighbours, and fos-

ter relations with other faith organisations. With its deep roots in Shinnyo Buddhism, lantern floating is a beautiful, tranquil and inclusive rite which allows people to gather to express gratitude to all that has come before us.

"In turn, we believe this togetherness can transcend differences, and help build peace, understanding and hope in our society."

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Charity box thief is sentenced

A THIEF who stole two charity boxes from a Chessington pub has been spared jail.

Anthony Richards, 28, from Longmead Road, Thames Ditton, admitted stealing two charity boxes belonging to Shooting Star Chase – an Addlestone hospice for children and teenagers with life-limiting conditions – and Cancer Research from the North Star pub in January.

The Cancer Research collection box was placed in the Hook Road pub by Julie Weinard, who had worked there for nearly 20 years before leaving when she was diagnosed with cancer about

two years ago. Ms Weinard died before Christmas 2015, pub staff said.

It is not known how much cash was in the charity boxes.

Richards was arrested after CCTV images were released by Kingston police, and were shared more than 1,000 times on Facebook.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of theft and possession of cannabis at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Friday, July 22. Richards was handed an eight-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay £85 plus an £80 surcharge.

Circumstances leading to girl's sex abuse to remain secret

Child services will not publish assault report



Report: The review will remain secret. Inset, Achieving for Children's Richmond's base

REPORTER
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A YOUNG teenager missing from foster care was seriously harmed and sexually assaulted in exchange for drugs.

But details of how the child fell into danger and whether they were failed by Kingston or Richmond child services will never be made public as the body in charge refuses to publish its investigation into the events leading up to the sexual assault.

The local safeguarding children's board (LSCB), part of Achieving for Children, launched a serious case review (SCR) investigating the 19 months leading up to the assault in 2014.

A small paragraph referencing the review was made public in Kingston Hospital's July

board papers. It said: "This has not been published due to risks particularly in relation to e-safety. Learning has however been shared with the NSPCC, the Department for Education and the National SCR Panel."

The NSPCC said all final SCRs and the LSCB responses "must be published on the LSCB website for a minimum of 12 months and should be available on request. This is important for sharing lessons learnt and good practice in writing and publishing SCRs."

A Kingston and Richmond LSCB spokesman said the SCR was not published "to avoid risking the anonymity of individuals".

SCRs should be written in a way that does not identify any children or vulnerable adults involved and should be kept secret "only in exceptional circumstances", according to the National SCR Panel.

The panel said in November last year it was "concerned" about the quality of some SCRs, and that in the last two years it has agreed not to publish six such reports.

Secretary John Leppard said: "In exceptional cases there may be a justification for non-publication. The panel expects to see expert, independent advice to an LSCB that publication represents a particular and serious threat to specific individuals before it will agree with a decision not to publish in full a completed report, or to publish it in a way which does not identify the LSCB concerned in order to protect the subject."

Neither the LSCB, Kingston or Richmond councils nor the national panel would reveal that reasoning.

Liberal Democrat member for children, Cllr Margaret Thompson, said she had never been told of the report.

Mobile mast bid revived



Angry locals at the proposed phone mast location

Renewed plans to build a phone mast in north Kingston estate have provoked a second petition by campaigners.

Residents living near the scout hut in Park Road have campaigned against Vodafone's plans for more than a year, with a previous application to build a 12.5m opposed by a petition with more than 500 signatures.

But now amended plans have been submitted to Kingston Council "just metres" from the previous spot, prompting the residents to start yet another petition.

The petition says the mast would "compromise child road safety, deface the residential area and be visually intrusive to the character of the area".

Drugs hidden in underwear

A DRUG dealer has been jailed for more than two years after being stopped in a Surbiton street with 40 packs of crack cocaine and heroin in his underpants.

Norbert Miassouekama, 31, was stopped by police officers in Berrylands Road on Wednesday, June 22. Officers found 22 packages of 'high purity' crack cocaine and 18 packages of heroin, Kingston police said.

Miassouekama, of High Road, Leyton, was jailed for 28 months at Kingston Crown Court on July 29.

He had appeared at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Friday, June 24 and pleaded guilty to one count of drug dealing.

The arrest was made as part of Operation Vulcan, targeting drug supply lines.

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Send-off: Roy's big bash

Mayor says farewell

THE retiring mayor's dinner saw Bollywood dancers and record-breaking announcements.

Cllr Roy Arora, who handed his chains to new mayor Geoff Austin in May, said his official goodbyes during a dinner at the Portsmouth Road Holiday Inn last week.

Cllr Arora's record-breaking achievements during his tenure include raising more than £70,000 for the Kingston Hospital dementia appeal, attending 600-plus engagements and making a marathon 24-minute leaving speech at full council.

During an emotive speech Cllr Arora thanked those who had helped during his record-breaking year, particularly his wife, mayoress Manisha Arora.

Judge blasts criminal who refused to own up to crime despite evidence 'Idiot' drug dealer is given 42-month prison sentence

REPORTER

JON MITCHELL

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A DRUG dealer was branded an 'idiot' by a judge and jailed for 42 months after he was caught with more than £2,000-worth of heroin and crack cocaine.

Alex Amoah, 20, was in the passenger seat of a car in School Lane, Tolworth, in February, when police pulled the vehicle over.

He jumped out and fled and while being chased by undercover officers he threw away a package.

It was later found to contain 109 wraps of 'deal-ready' crack cocaine and heroin worth more than £2,000.

Amoah, of Stafford Road, Brent, was caught by the officers and arrested on February 29.

He was jailed for 42 months at Kingston Crown Court last Tuesday.

Judge Michael Hopmeier called Amoah an 'idiot'



Jailed: Alex Amoah was branded an 'idiot' by a judge

for failing to plead guilty to drug dealing earlier due to the 'weight of the evidence' against him, a Kingston police spokesman said.

Amoah had appeared at Kingston Crown Court on Wednesday, March 2, hav-

ing been charged with drug dealing but originally pleaded not guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply. Before his trial was due to start he changed his plea to guilty.

Amoah's arrest was made

the same month Kingston police launched Operation Vulcan, a six-month blitz on drug dealing targeting 'drug supply lines' coming from outside the borough.

DI Adam Guttridge, who led the operation, said: "Kingston police have worked hard to target dealers. Their activities cause criminality and anti-social behaviour which we will not tolerate."

"I'd like to praise the excellent observational skills by my officers who were able to recover the discarded package. Alex preyed upon drug addicts to fund his own lifestyle."

The Kingston Guardian revealed in May this year that Kingston police's previous drug dealing crackdown, labelled Operation Odin, resulted in 15 convictions from almost 250 arrests.

DI Guttridge said the operation targeted key individuals, or 'nominals', around whom detectives built a picture of how drugs were dealt in the borough.

TV licence loophole is to be shut

A CHANGE to TV licensing is coming on September 1 and fans of iPlayer need to know about it.

The loophole which currently allows viewers to watch on-demand BBC shows for free will be closed.

A licence will be needed by anyone downloading or watching BBC programmes on any device including smart TVs, laptops, mobiles, tablets and games consoles.

People who continue to watch iPlayer without a licence will risk prosecution and a £1,000 fine. Only live content is currently covered by the £145.50-a-year licence.

People who already have a licence will not be affected, while one will not be needed to watch other on-demand services such as Netflix.

Students in particular could be affected by the change, with two in three students watching catch-up TV online and only 22 per cent taking a TV to university.

John Whittingdale, then culture secretary, stated in March: "Giving a free ride to those who enjoy *Sherlock* or *Bake Off* an hour, a day or a week after they are broadcast was never intended."

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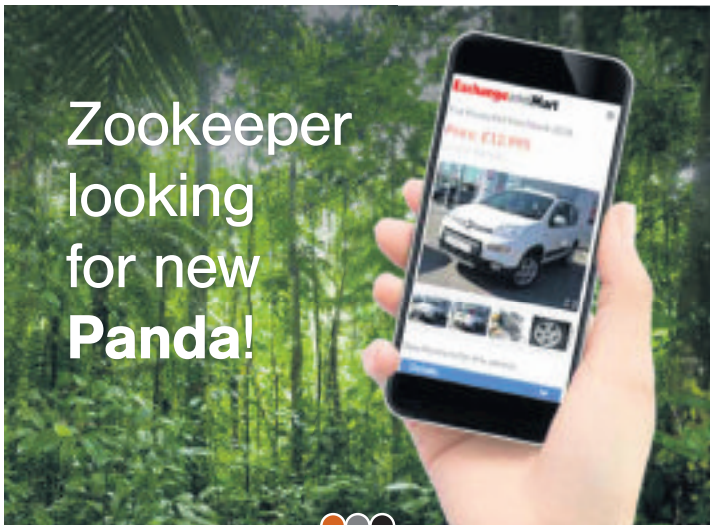
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South London charities have until October to apply for grant

Chance to win Gannett Foundation cash boost

REPORTER
JON SHARMAN
jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

CHARITIES across south London have just over two months to apply for a one-off grant from the Gannett Foundation, part of Gannett Co, the parent company of Newsquest Media Group, which publishes the *Kingston Guardian*.

Last year three organisations in south London were celebrating after being picked to receive their share of more than £10,000.

Momentum, based at Kingston Hospital, offers help in hospitals and at homes in south London and Surrey to children with serious illnesses and their families.

The charity was given £7,450 to buy a new 3D sensory pain distraction unit.

St Raphael's Hospice, in Sutton, was handed a cheque for £4,520 at the end of 2015 and Home Start Wandsworth applied for £1,702 to help get its cookery classes under way.

The aim of the Gannett Foundation is to support projects which take a creative approach



Grants: Momentum organisers and, inset, reporter Rachael Burford

to fundamental issues such as education and neighbourhood improvements, economic development, youth development, local problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged or disabled people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment.

The trustees will favour projects that demonstrate good planning, oversight and financial responsibility. Copies of the

charity's most recent financial accounts are required.

In addition, any supporting materials and further details concerning the overall aims of the charity should be included with each submission.

Download application forms from kingstonguardian.co.uk and return to sroach@london.newsquest.co.uk before the deadline of 5pm on October 14.

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Rebranded venue will have burger shack and themed rooms



All change: The Victoria in Surbiton is to have a gastropub facelift

The Victoria to become gastropub in makeover

REPORTER
RACHAEL BURFORD

rachael.burford@
london.newsquest.co.uk



FINDING a spot in Surbiton to watch the football might get a bit harder as one of the last remaining sports bars is set to turn into a trendy gastropub covered in "leathers and soft velvets".

Bosses of The Victoria say they will cancel their Sky and BT Sport subscriptions, sell the TVs and reopen as "a place Surbiton can be proud of".

It currently boasts four TVs inside, plus a projection screen, and two outside, making it a favourite location for sports fans.

But now the Young's-owned

pub plans to offer an extensive, upmarket menu in an environment of "exposed brickwork and timbers".

The brewery has been given permission to open an American-style burger shack and create booth seating in the garden of the Victoria Road pub.

The Vic will also have a series of themed rooms, including one based on the workshop of Surbiton man James Simpson who helped design a sand filtration system that purified cholera-contaminated river water.

Young's solicitor James Anderson said: "At the moment it is a pub that is led very much by sport, but Young's want to change it into a food-led premises.

"This is a complete change of direction for the pub. Young's don't have any other pubs that focus on sport to such a degree."

If the refurb goes ahead, the Black Lion, in Brighton Road, will be the only pub in central Surbiton that shows subscription sports on a regular basis.

The Black Lion is also a Young's pub but is managed independently.

According to the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, a typical Sky subscription costs about £15,000. BT Sport packages are considerably cheaper.

Mr Anderson added: "Sky television will go and hopefully it will be a very nice premises that Surbiton can be proud of."

Shaun earns his wings at 16

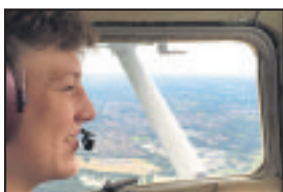
A 16-year-old Grey Court student has become one of the UK's youngest pilots with the help of Kingston's RAF cadet corps.

After 21 hours of training, Shaun Parkes has become one of the youngest people in the UK to ever fly solo after he took control of a Cessna 152 aircraft unsupervised.

Shaun, of Rothesay Avenue, Richmond, flew a circuit 1,200ft above Surrey.

Redhill Aviation's operations controller Paul Appleton said: "He is demonstrating remarkable aptitude and determination and has been 'well above range' over an intensive month's private pilot's license training."

Shaun said: "I've been inspired



In the air: Shaun Parkes

to fly by the likes of astronaut Tim Peake and also my late great-grandpa who flew aircrew on Lancasters."

Those interested in flying can visit pilotcareernews.com/flying-scholarships. Anyone interested in joining the RAF Air Cadets should visit 328sqn.org.

'There's life after the EU'

THE chief executive of Kingston Chamber of Commerce has dismissed claims that Brexit has triggered pessimism amongst businesses, instead saying that people are beginning to accept that there is "life after the EU".

Jerry Irving said that it was "uncertainty" rather than a lack of optimism which is being felt by businesses across the borough, but that companies are still thriving.

He made the claims after the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) published a report saying business optimism had fallen at its fastest rate in seven years since Britain voted to leave the EU.

The CBI report found that 52 per cent of manufacturers were less optimistic about businesses prospering in post-EU Britain.

Mr Irving said: "I think in terms of what's happening with businesses locally there is a level of uncertainty, I don't think there is a lack of confidence."

"People are coming around to the fact that there is life after the EU."

"It's a complex situation, it's not one that we are familiar with. It's time to remain calm, not to panic and to carry on business as we can."

MP opens a charity shop

MP Zac Goldsmith cut the ribbon at Kingston's first charity shop specialising in furniture for the borough's disadvantaged families.

Mr Goldsmith declared the Kingston Community Furniture's first retail outlet open on Thursday, July 28. It was his first store opening since his failed London mayor bid in May.

He described the Dollary Parade shop as "a fantastic initiative" while cutting the ribbon.

KCF helps people experiencing hard times and deprivation furnish their houses on an extremely tight budget. Last year the charity helped nearly 1,200 disadvantaged households.

Much of KCF's stock comes from house clearances and domestic collections. Service manager Adrian Collins said he wanted to encourage people to donate now the new shop is open. Any furniture that cannot be resold or upcycled is recycled.

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Letters may be edited for space, clarity and legal reasons

ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at
kingstonguardian.co.uk

Froome hails the crowd after RideLondon Rio warm-up around south London

There is a problem with how cyclists and other road users interact with each other. And frankly, for more road users than not, most of the problem is with anything on two wheels.

CONCERNED_RESIDENT

Roads are funded out of local taxpayers' pockets – anyone who pays local council tax has just as much right to use the roads.

ROB_C

Isn't it time now for the bike ride to move around the country – can't be accused of being London-centric can we.

BUGGSIE



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Who to contact

Kingston Guardian adheres to the Editors' Code of Practice (which you can find at ipso.co.uk). We are regulated by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). Complaints about stories should be referred firstly to the editor by email at: newsdesk@kingstonguardian.co.uk or by post at Kingston Guardian Complaints, Floor 10, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS.

It is essential your email or letter is headed "Complaint" in the subject line and contains the following information:

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- A full explanation of your complaint by reference to the Editors' Code.

If you do not provide any of the information above this may delay or prevent us dealing with your complaint. Your personal details will only be used for administration purposes.

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the 'report this post' function online next to the comment.

It's carnage

I'M SORRY to report that vandals have ripped up trees all along Portsmouth Road and Queens Promenade.

Not only that, but they've dug up the entire stretch of road that runs along the Thames from Thames Ditton into Kingston. It's carnage!

The sight is enough to make a bishop kick in a plate glass window. Why? Won't someone think of the children?

NICK BOOTH
Kingston

Stop now

I DO not fully understand the letter from Brian Godding (Your say, July 22).

What is certain is that Tolworth is already greatly overpopulated, both by people and cars. Try using Tolworth roundabout or Broadway by car.

To twice refuse applications for a residential development on the old Tesco site is correct.

LAURENCE COOLEY
Tolworth

Take part

I URGE residents to take part in the current 'Direction of Travel' consultation that runs until August 29 and can be found on the council's website at kingston.gov.uk/consultations.

This is a high-level strategic planning consultation and shows scope for transformational change in Kingston town, the Cambridge Road estate, New Malden, Tolworth, the Hogsmill Valley and Chessington.

The consultation results will

go to the growth committee on September 8, and will inform the development of the new Local Plan.

Jointly prepared by the council's planning department, the mayor of London and Transport for London, the 'Direction of Travel' document amplifies the local Conservatives' plans for "growth" in our borough.

Whilst we want to build more homes, you can't fit a quart into a pint pot and we do not want to see Kingston suddenly become another Croydon.

Kingston is facing an affordable housing crisis so we also want to ensure homes built are really affordable to best serve our communities for the future.

In my view, consulting over the summer on a high-level

strategic planning document when there are fewer residents around in general and many on holiday is foolish.

And whilst the Conservative leader Cllr Kevin Davis admitted that he doesn't think at the moment the council engages with residents at all well, he nonetheless overruled our amendments and refused to extend the consultation into the autumn.

CLLR LIZ GREEN
Liberal Democrat leader

Brave souls

LAST Sunday 26,000 cyclists passed our house, while they were getting the 100 miles from London via Surrey back to London into their wheels.

We walked up to the side of the road to cheer them on, these brave souls that were facing a tough challenge and were really going for it.

I gave it some thought and think it is about the fact that so many people were united in a positive action, each individual having to face their own type of challenge and going for it, but moving together as a strong force. It shows what people can do; ordinary people with busy jobs and busy lives, with state-of-the-art bikes, folding bikes and hybrids, who set their mind to a goal and are determined to get there.

I admire and salute every single one of them.

It is inspiring and shows the best of the human race.

DR MARIETTE JANSEN
Via email

No plans to alter traffic sign

IN response to Ian Sewter's letter (Your say, August 4), the traffic sign immediately before the junction at Oakcroft Road is for drivers of heavy goods vehicles.

The sign is there to prevent them from using the bus lane as a shortcut to Oakcroft Road where there is an industrial estate. The

same sign also warns the drivers of heavy goods vehicles of the width restrictions further along the road which will prevent them from driving any further.

The sign is compliant with the Department for Transport's regulations and there are no plans to alter it.

Similarly for cars, there are signs leading up to the bus lane which are clear and allow motorists to know that a camera is operational.

Due to the high number of traffic contraventions caused by motorists using the bus lane, a camera was installed nine

months ago. We would initially expect penalty charge notices to be issued at this location due to the high number of traffic contraventions that have happened to date.

CLLR PHIL DOYLE
Kingston Council

Sharing joy of Facebook and Twitter without a computer

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them

5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. Love the idea of the bloke without a computer who heard about Twitter and Facebook. He decided to apply the principles and started telling passers-by what he'd eaten and how he felt. He gave them pictures of his wife, his dog, him doing the gardening and sitting by the pool. He'd listen to them and tell them he 'liked' them. He also shared his opinions with them whether they were interested or not. And it works, he has four people following him – two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist.

2. When, oh when, are people going to get sensible about women breastfeeding

in public? It is the most natural, healthy and generally joyous thing in the world. All feeding mums should feel totally at ease about getting their breasts out wherever, and whenever, they so choose. I don't agree with revenge attacks, but I did enjoy the story about the woman who retaliated by 'squirting her boobs' at someone who complained.

3. Just when you think you've finally managed to work them out, teenagers somehow manage to go and surprise you. It was my 18-year-old's first day at work this

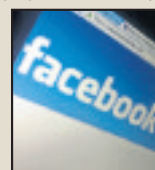
week and I did everything I possibly could to make him feel relaxed and confident about it. I can remember being terrified of that 'new boy' feeling. But, after all my fussing, he finally took me aside for a quiet word and simply said: "I know me going to work is hard for you, but don't stress, it's not good for you."

4. Police are more worried now about spreading news of crime than they are actually solving crimes. They wait weeks, if not months, to give us details, just in case they manage to solve the case by another means

– that way they don't need to go public and 'spread the fear of crime'. It's crazy, give us the details straight away and you'll catch more criminals.

5. And finally, I realised this week I'm actually a little bit OCD. It's just enough that I manage to get more tasks done in a more ordered fashion than if I wasn't. It left me feeling, if anything, more upbeat.

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Barry Long took this photo from his roof top in Tudor Drive after a warm day. To see your photo in Borough View, email it with detail of where you took it to rachael.burford@london.newsquest.co.uk.



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So, whatever business you are in, you should be in the newspapers.

newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness

JOSH WIDDICOMBE



THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

MUSIC – Gospel singing workshop in Raynes Park from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday: Singing teacher Katriona Taylor hosts a three-hour fun afternoon of singing for ages 15 and over. £35. Go to singforpleasure.wordpress.com
THEATRE – Extravaganza Macabre at Battersea Arts Centre until August 26: The first show at the Arts Centre's new courtyard open-air theatre

is a tale of villainy and valour in Victorian London. Tickets cost from £12.50. Go to bac.org.uk
MUSIC – DJ Yoda at Clapham Grand on Saturday: The superstar DJ brings his Ibiza-headlining History of Hip Hop audio visual show to London, with support from Krafty Kuts. Tickets cost £10 on the door. Go to thelondongrand.com
THEATRE – That's Entertainment at New

Wimbledon Theatre from Tuesday (August 16) to Saturday (August 20): G4 bandmember Jonathan Ansell is the special guest in this show that brings to life the greatest hits from the golden age of song and dance in the movies, including George

Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Rogers and Hammerstein. Go to atgtickets.com for more details.
COMEDY – Josh Widdicombe – What Do I Do Now at The Secombe, Sutton, on Thursday (August 18): The Last Leg co-host and Mock the Week regular brings his latest, stand-up show to Sutton. Tickets cost £20.50. Go to suttontheatres.co.uk

THRILLS AND DRILLS

Former X Factor contestant Rhyddian Roberts tells JIM PALMER why he enjoys playing the bad guy ahead of an appearance as a sadistic dentist in the Little Shop of Horrors at New Wimbledon Theatre later this month...

What's on

Rhyddian Roberts has grown used to playing the bad guy but his next role could be one of the baddest yet.

The 33-year-old shot to fame on the X Factor nearly a decade ago, where he portrayed as a pantomime villain, and has since gone on to forge a successful solo career alongside a formidable stage career which has seen him be Pontius Pilot in Jesus Christ Superstar and Khashoggi in We Will Rock You.

Now he is set to play the sadistic, laughing gas-addicted dentist and abusive boyfriend of Audrey in the comedy rock musical Little Shop of Horrors, which comes to New Wimbledon Theatre from August 22 to 27.

Speaking from the rehearsal room, Rhyddian told us he was initially asked to play the lead, a hapless shop worker called Seymour who keeps a giant man-eating plant named Audrey II

after the object of his affections. But both Rhyddian and the producers agreed he was more suited to the dentist.

He said: "I generally play bad guy. They are usually much more interesting characters, and this is an interesting character because I don't want to play a caricature but he has got to be more business-like when he is speaking to Seymour, then he flips on his wife and he goes completely schiz in his dental practice."

"He has also got to have the demeanour of a man about town in his leather jacket. There are certainly layers in this character."

Little Shop of Horrors has been a cult favourite of audiences ever since it debuted off Broadway in 1982 and went on to win bundles of awards and was made into an equally cult movie in 1986 starring Rick Moranis, directed by puppet

legend Frank Oz. This latest version has been given a totally fresh look.

Rhyddian told us: "This is a completely new production so we are not rehashing anything. I can look at the plant here, it is half built and it is massive."

"We have got new sets, new props, the music has been redone so what people can expect is a production of Little Shop of Horrors that has never been seen before."

"Expect a great cast – we have got such a strong team and a great director, Tara [Wilkinson], who has just been directing Motown in the West End."

Rhyddian added: "It is exciting, it's thrilling, it's gory, it's funny and it is a great company."

Little Shop of Horrors is at New Wimbledon Theatre from August 22 to 27. Go to atgtickets.com/Wimbledon for further information.



“ We have got new sets, new props, the music has been redone so what people can expect is a production of Little Shop of Horrors that has never been seen before... ”



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Regional Director for Sandown Park racecourse Phil White

On 21 July we held our Elmbridge Community Raceday. This afternoon featured exciting flat racing as well as the annual Mayor's Charity Mascot race. Eight pantomime horses lined up for the race, that was started again this year by TV legend Michael Aspel, along with the Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor Tannia Shipley. The contest was won by *Outsider*, from the Elmbridge Borough Council, who finished ahead of another representative for the council, *Bridle Gem*.

At this raceday we were also delighted to welcome students and their parents from Esher High School as we exhibited artwork the students produced as part of a project with the racecourse. We really were blown away by the standard of the artwork and so impressed that some of the creations are staying on display in the grandstand, so keep an eye out on your next visit!

Our summer of evening racing with live music finished in style last week, with Bryan Adams entertaining a sell-out crowd with his famous hits. Over the summer we have also had

Brit Award-nominee Jess Glynne and pop-band Busted play at the racecourse. Watch this space for announcements about our exciting music acts for summer 2017!

On Saturday 20 August we host our annual Family Fun Day. This year the theme is Superheroes and as well as enjoying an afternoon of flat racing we will have a variety of free kids' entertainment. Attractions include a Batmobile, inflatable Superhero slide and Superhero fun run, bungee trampoline, face painters and much more.

Racegoers are encouraged to come dressed up as a movie superhero, princess or real-life hero - get the whole family involved and enter into the fancy dress competition to win tickets to a future fixture at Sandown Park Racecourse.

Sandown Park has a host of food and drinks outlets with offers suitable for all the family. You can also bring your own picnic and enjoy in the designated picnic areas. Away from the kids' entertainment, the racing is top quality with three races selected for live Channel 4 coverage. These include two Group 3 races, the Solario Stakes, previously won by Kingman, who went on to win at Royal Ascot and the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, and the Atalanta Stakes, won recently by the French-raider Fintny.

Superhero Family Day is fantastic value for money - tickets are 20% off when booked online in advance, with under 18s admitted free with a paying adult, so a family can join us for just £32. We look forward to seeing you for a fun day out for the summer holidays.

Sandown.co.uk



FASHIONUNITED

A Tooting fashion designer has created an award-winning range to send a message of peace as a reaction to a Bosnian massacre.

Taslima Khan, 27, has released her Remember Me collection under her luxury womenswear label Taslima K.

The former Burntwood School pupil, and a fashion design and marketing graduate from the University of East London, was inspired by a visit to the town of Srebrenica where 21 years ago more than 8,000 muslim men and boys were murdered. While there she met family mem-

bers of those who were killed. Taslima told us: "This was the most powerful moment, meeting the mothers. This helped me to find the positivity of my collection, how these mothers lost everything and witnessed horror yet preached so much love."

The collection is inspired by Bosnian clothing, blending with the UK lifestyle, including 'harem pants'. A white, green and camouflage colour palette mimics the Bosnian remembrance flower, the scenic route from Sarajevo to Srebrenica and the civilians who became soldiers to pro-

tect friends and family.

Taslima said: "I wish for this range to share the story of what occurred in Bosnia and teach peace, love and unity."

Taslima K's Remember Me collection was the Uprising 2016 Award winner and is supported by the Prince's Trust, which stocks the clothing at its Tomorrow's Store in Liverpool Street.

Taslima also sells the collection on her website and hopes for it to be stocked in more stores in the future.

Remember Me is her sec-

ond collection. The first, Girl Gang, was about female empowerment and was inspired by her background as a national and university league basketball player and a professional dancer and the London 2012 Olympics.

She has worked in the fashion industry as an assistant buyer at Ralph Lauren and as a stylist at fashion shows, for celebrities and magazines but dreamed of creating her own label.

She said: "I am a believer in you should do what you love and always dream big."

Go to taslimak.co.uk

WINETIME

Do you always stick to the same bottle when buying wine or do you wish you knew more? Then a new wine school that has launched in Epsom could help you out.

Deborah Zbinden has Wine Confidence, a monthly evening class at Ewell Court House, which will cover a different topic each week with the minimum of jargon.

Zbinden has more than 15 years' experience in the wine industry and has held management roles at the likes of Hardys, Wolf Blass and Lindemans as well as working on smaller boutique and emerging brands around the world.

Her classes run from 7.45pm to 9.30pm on the last Wednesday of every month and topics include introduction to food and wine pairings and aromatic whites or spicy reds.

She said: "There's so much choice out there for people to enjoy and I hope that Wine Confidence's courses and tastings will help people to feel braver about experimenting with different grapes and styles."

Visit wineconfidence.co.uk



PICTURE: NIKKI ACOTT (CREATE STUDIOS)

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HOLIDAY TOPTIPS

Dinosaur hunting at Crystal Palace Park: Forget Jurassic Park, dinosaurs have been back in south London since Victorian times. The Natural History Museum's founder Richard Owen and sculptor Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins erected a series of model dinosaurs in the park more than a century ago. There's even a

free audio trail. Go to audiotrails.co.uk/dinosaurs
See the animals at Deen City Farm: It's not often you get to go to a farm while you're still in the city. The five acre site near Morden has around 150 animals including alpacas, birds, goats, pigs and sheep. Go to deenacityfarm.co.uk
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FILM REVIEW: PETE'S DRAGON, out August 12. ★★★★★

I don't think the Disney Corporation have ever heard of the phrase 'If it ain't broke... don't fix it', writes **Mark Foker**.

They seem to be on a quest to try and improve on perfection by employing the use of that very modern digital wizardry called CGI. Although this sounds as though I don't agree with these new versions and I hate to admit it but the results are amazing.

The Jungle Book surpassed my expectations. Now the 1977 fam-

ily Disney film Pete's Dragon has been given the CGI facelift.

The story has changed slightly from the original but is still the same heart-warming tale of the relationship of a young 11-year old Pete (Oakes Fegley) and his twenty-foot tall Dragon called Elliot.

The supporting cast includes such luminaries as Bryce Dallas Howard, Robert Redford and Karl Urban - it's a particularly nice change to see the latter as a

bad guy. This is a nice little film and the CGI is actually well done. Elliot the dragon still has the ability to disappear at will in a Predator-type of 'now you see me now you don't' way.

The designers have made a nod to the original cartoon dragon characteristics by giving Elliot the big protruding bottom jaw and the childlike quality.

The period it is set is timeless - it could be anywhere from the 1950s to today. Director

and co-writer David Lowry, who is more known for independent films, has conceived this Hicksville town where people wear a lot of lumberjack shirts, use old fashioned phones with the plastic receiver resting on the cradle with a ring, ring tone. And Natalie (Oona Laurence) introduces Pete to music by playing a vinyl LP on a record player.

Personally I would have liked to see more of The Sundance Kid (that's one for the over 30's).

OUTDOORTECH

With August heating up and the bank holiday approaching, we take a look at some outdoor tech to ensure your summer is a hit.

If you're off camping or going to a festival this bank holiday, why not avoid the queue at the phone charging tent by taking a **BioLite camp stove**.

The BioLite stove burns wood that can be used for cooking or boiling water whilst taking the excess energy from the flame to charge your phone at the same time. £125

No camping trip would be complete without a BBQ so why not take along an **Ecandy BBQ thermometer**. This food thermometer will ensure your food is cooked perfectly and folds up like a pocket knife for easy storage. £30

For the green fingered out there, check out the **Parrot Flower Power sensors**. These

twig shaped devices measure sun light, temperature, fertiliser levels and moisture.

They send this information back to your smart phone so you know exactly what your plants need. £40

And finally if you're planning on having a party this bank holiday then you're going to need some music in the garden, so why not try the **Acoustascope HiFi system** from Origin Acoustics.

The set comes with four satellite speakers and an in-ground subwoofer, all remaining completely hidden within the flower beds and will keep your guests dancing all weekend. £1,999.

Written by Mark Evans from Digitalised, your local home technology experts. For more like this follow @Digitalised_ or go to digitalised.com

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Never mind mortgage rate cuts; there's never been a better time to get on the property ladder.

Following the Bank of England's decision to cut interest rates to 0.25%, **PAUL BUMFORD, Financial Services Director at Andrews Property Group discusses how, whilst this could be viewed as good news for homeowners, there is so much more to be positive about:**

The likely knock-on effect of the recent announcement is that we'll see some mortgage rates reduce which will, in turn, pose an opportunity for some first time buyers to get on the property ladder. When the headlines fade, however, it is worth remembering that a lowering of rates is just one route to getting on the property ladder and I'd argue that there's never been a better time to buy.

I'm certainly not suggesting that a cut to interest rates isn't a good thing, and reduced rates will almost certainly see the market enjoy a boost, but I think it should be couched within reason.

Most lenders are unlikely to significantly, if at all, alter their Standard Variable Rates (SVR); fixed rates, meanwhile, may see some initial downward movement;

KEEP CALM, CARRY ON BUYING

whilst it's in the tracker mortgage market where the greatest gains are to be made – assuming there are no collar exemptions in place whereby the rate cannot drop below a certain point.

But does that leave us in a vastly different place to where we currently find ourselves today? I'd argue not, but it's not such a bad place to be. Simply, there has never been a cheaper time to access money, nor has there been an easier time to get a mortgage, so long as – and this is the crux – the applicant ticks all the boxes.

For first time buyers especially, there is a myriad of opportunities to get on the property ladder. However, they don't always do their homework, hold realistic expectations, or consider more creative options for entering the mortgage market.

With a wealth of information available, any purchaser, first time or otherwise, should be able to gain a pretty fair idea of what they can afford. Once they've done some initial research, it's always a good idea to engage with an expert

advisor who will integrate a stress test on the level of borrowing that allows for interest rates going up by anything in the region of 2-5%. Remember, it's not simply a case of the loan being affordable now, but also in the future.

Purchasers also need to be realistic about what property it is they really need. We often hear that young people can't afford to get on the property ladder, but all too often they've set their sights on a property that would suit them later in life as their family expands or which is located in an area that commands a premium. By considering alternative property types or locations, they're likely to open up options that they hadn't previously considered.

Likewise, shared-ownership is a popular option that allows the purchaser to increase the amount of equity they own in the property as their circumstances change. But it's not just official schemes that should be considered, and a would-be purchaser's options for getting on to the property market may be closer than they think.



The 'bank of mum and dad' that we hear so much about is estimated to be worth £5 billion annually, making it the 10th biggest lender in the UK! But rather than just stop with a gifted deposit to help towards making that initial step, parents can also consider releasing equity in their own property or being named on the new mortgage to support their offspring.

Finally, there's always the option of buying with two or three

like-minded friends. This works especially well in areas where city centre living comes at a premium. By pooling resources, a one bedroom flat that seemed unaffordable can become a three-bedroom house and so long as all parties have sought expert legal advice and feel comfortable that they'll be able to manage things should circumstances change in the future, it's a great option for getting on the property ladder.

So yes, the likely drop in mortgage rates is an opportunity to be seized for some purchasers, but it's far from the only option and lenders have never before been so prepared to look at more creative options, so long as they are well thought through, make financial sense and are affordable. I'd encourage anyone looking to get a mortgage to not be blindsided by what they read in the media.

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ON THE ROAD: VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

Can Volkswagen's third generation Beetle be more than just a lifestyle statement? JONATHAN CROUCH reports on the improved version...

BACKGROUND: Volkswagen's third generation Beetle has proved to be a classier and more mature car than its predecessor, qualities the Wolfsburg brand has tried to enhance with the latest round of changes.

These create a slightly smarter look, with extra value added to specifications, plus there's the option of a more Crossover-style 'Dune' derivative. Importantly for its target market amongst retro rivals, this car remains a very style-conscious choice, whether you go for it in Coupe or Cabriolet guises. Aesthetics matter. Go on. Live a beautiful life.

DRIVING EXPERIENCE: So to the Volkswagen Beetle. You'll probably remember that this car was re-launched in modern era

guise at the turn of the century and following on from that, over a million new era examples were sold over thirteen years. Despite that, the second generation version of this car was never quite the success it might have been.

The curvy Toytown looks and touches like the flower vase on the dash left it as an exclusively feminine and fashion-centric choice, buyers who quickly forsook its charms when at the turn of the century the New MINI and much later, the reinvented Fiat 500 came along.

Hence the need for the all-new third generation Beetle that was introduced in 2012, the car we're going to look at in improved form here.

This was a model with wider

appeal and one much closer to the feel of the original post-war design. Longer, wider and lower than its MK2 predecessor, it was intended to look more sporty, masculine and dynamic and did. Plus, because the Golf underpinnings remained, the MK3 Beetle could be a more practical choice than its retro rivals. Those competitors — cars like the MINI Hatch and the DS3 — have recently improved themselves though, hence the need for the thorough Beetle update we're going to look at here.

MARKET AND MODEL: Beetle motoring isn't really about high performance and with that in mind, you may feel minded

to save a little and opt for the lower-powered petrol derivative or a diesel. Petrol-wise, you're looking at a turbocharged 1.2 TSI unit, surprisingly punchy despite its modest 105PS output. With 175Nm of torque on tap, sixty here is 10.9s away en route to 112mph. The diesel option is a 2.0 TDI unit offered with either 110 or 150PS.

We'll start with the styling changes made to these lightly improved Coupe and Cabriolet models; to be frank, they're not particularly significant. There are sharpened lines for the front bumpers, while larger openings around the indicator and fog light surrounds give extra depth

to the car's appearance. Go for top 'R-Line' trim and there's a sportier bumper design. Go for the 'Dune' version and there's a 10mm ride height increase, with more rugged looks enhanced via 18-inch 'Mythos' alloy wheels, front and rear wheelarch extensions and bolder bumper designs.

Otherwise, things are much as before, which means that, against the odds, something of a feel of Dr Ferdinand Porsche's early 'Peoples' Car' has somehow made it through to this third generation model, most notably in the large wheels plumply positioned beneath the flared flowing arches and a rear C-pillar that follows the contours

of the original design. So there's something of the past, artfully mixed with a sporty vision of the future.

Moving inside the three-door-only bodyspace, at the wheel, you're seated behind a traditional upright dashboard with a set of three traditional dials visible through a sporty three-spoke thin-rimmed wheel. Unfortunately, the plastics are traditional too, so no Golf-like soft-touch surfaces. Still, the quality seems good even if the Mexican factory doesn't seem to screw things together quite up to German-fabricated Golf standards.

COST: There are now four trim levels offered - Beetle, Design, R-Line and Dune. Expect to pay somewhere in the £17,000 to £25,000 bracket for most versions of the hardtop Beetle model we're looking at here, depending on the model and spec you decide upon.



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Model shown is New Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 hp at £19,225 OTR incl. Stromboli Grey Special Paint at £525. Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa Giulietta range: Urban 29.7 - 60.1 mpg (9.5 - 4.7 l/100km); Extra Urban 54.3 - 88.3 mpg (5.2 - 3.2 l/100km); Combined 41.5 - 74.3 mpg (6.8 - 3.8 l/100km). CO₂ emissions 157 - 99 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EC directives/regulations and may not be representative of real-life driving conditions. *Customer deposit is £1,599. Optional Final Payment is £5,803. Contract Term is 48 months. Promotion available on New Alfa Giulietta 1.4 TB 120 hp at £19,225 OTR registered between 1st July and 31st July 2016. Alfa Deposit Contribution only available in conjunction with Alfa Romeo Preferenza PCP. With Alfa Romeo Preferenza you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 6,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Finance subject to status. Guarantees may be required. Terms and Conditions apply. At participating Dealers only. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO BOX 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors including Alfa Romeo Financial Services.

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SEAT LAUNCHES ‘Beautifully Created Summer Test Drive Event in time for the New ‘66’ Number Plate!



SEAT UK has just launched a far-reaching marketing campaign, entitled ‘Beautifully Created Summer Test drive Event’, highlighting the quality and style of its entire range, as well as a tempting £500 towards the purchase of any new SEAT.

Emphasising the state-of-the-art engineering and quality of its cars, as well as the emotion and passion of Barcelona, its home city, SEAT’s latest promotion runs until 31 May across all five of its model ranges; Mii, Ibiza, Toledo, Leon and Alhambra. Crucially, the post-test-drive incentive is available

in addition to all other SEAT UK offers, which means car buyers can do more than just benefit from a £500 (including VAT) contribution towards the purchase of a new SEAT - they can also take advantage of some tempting finance offers, such as 0% APR representative finance, or, competitively priced Solutions (PCP) finance packages.

There are some seriously tempting offers available. Among them is up to £3,160 off the SE version of SEAT’s iconic Ibiza supermini. Costing from £8,995 in SC (Sport Coupé) guise, instead of £13,155, it comes with a peppsy 1.0 75PS engine, 15-inch ‘ibiza’ alloy wheels, plus, air conditioning, DAB digital radio and Bluetooth.

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All of the latest SEAT UK showroom models are included, so whether it’s the fashion-led appeal of the Mii by MANGO limited edition, the sporty look of its FR-Line brother, right up to the performance and handling prowess of the new Ibiza CUPRA Black and Leon CUPRA 290 Black Edition Range, there is a car to suit every need.

Another recent arrival is SEAT’s Leon SE Dynamic. Available in svelte five-door or striking, yet practical, ST (Sports Tourer) bodystyles, the well-equipped mid-trim level costs from £17,700.

The Leon SE Dynamic comes with 17-inch ‘Dynamic’ alloy wheels, dark tinted glass, Tech Pack (satellite navigation, full LED headlights, Bluetooth and DAB digital radio).

‘The Beautifully Created Summer Test Drive Event’ also includes the All-New SEAT Ateca launched on the 9th September.

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* Full terms & conditions of the FREE Insurance are available at www.ibizafreeinsurance.co.uk.

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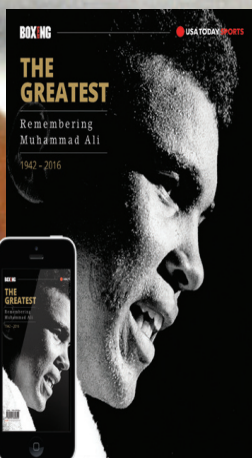
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Wanderers secure lifeline

MALDEN Wanderers grabbed a Surrey Championship Division One survival lifeline thanks to an 81-run win over struggling Spencer at Cambridge Avenue on Saturday.

Number four batsman Pete Young scored 79 and all-rounder Neil Mander, right, smashed 45 off 32 balls to see Wanderers post 271-7 off their

50 overs, before bowlers Will Sabey (3-37) and Spencer Stephens (3-48) combined to dismiss the visitors for 191.

Malden, who remain six points from safety with four games to play, face a tough task when they head to league leaders Valley End this weekend.



First blood: Giselle Ansley celebrates against India

Team GB unsocial for Games

TEAM GB's hockey women may top their group after two games of the Olympic tournament in Rio, but Surbiton Hockey Club's Giselle Ansley is not getting carried away, writes Stuart Amos.

Ansley's penalty corner strike opened the scoring in Monday's 3-0 win over India that backed up Sunday's dramatic 2-1 opening triumph over Australia.

The 24-year-old, below, revealed the squad have removed themselves from social media to focus on bettering their London 2012 Games bronze medal effort four years ago.

And the move is designed to keep the squad grounded as they prepare for the next group B clash with Argentina on Wednesday.

"We are taking it game by game despite two ear-



ly wins," said Ansley, who admitted to suffering Olympic debut nerves ahead of the Australia triumph.

"Six points out of six is the perfect start because every game is a tough one so grinding out the results at this stage is important.

"We have come off social media as a team. We have decided to stay in our little bubble and focus on ourselves, but we have heard from friends and family that the support back home is fantastic."

Ansley and Surbiton club-mates Georgie Twigg and Hollie Webb take on Japan on Friday and the USA on Saturday, having faced Argentina on Wednesday.

FRIENDLY KO: Palace pull out, but Casuals are well prepared for kick-off

No show is no problem

SPORTS EDITOR
STUART AMOS

samos@
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CORINTHIAN Casuals might have seen Tuesday's big friendly with Crystal Palace U21 side cancelled, but boss James Bracken's men will not be undercooked when it comes to the Ryman Division South kick-off.

Three second half goals, courtesy of man-of-the-match Josh Uzun, James Cottee and Josh Gallagher gave Casuals a 3-2 triumph over Ryman Premier Division neighbours Kingstonian on Saturday.

Forty-eight hours later, Casuals received the news the visit of Premier League Eagles had been shelved with boss Alan Pardew preferring his youngsters to fulfil a first team visit to Farnborough on Monday night.

It left the King George's Field club hoping Palace would do the honourable thing and foot the bill for the cost of programmes already printed for the Tuesday friendly.

"Unfortunately, Crystal Palace have pulled out of tomorrow's pre season friendly at Casuals. Suffice to say, we're very disappointed. Programmes printed and advertising gone to waste," Casuals official Twitter account stated.

Bracken's team might have had one game less than intended ahead of Saturday's league opener at Whyteleafe, but they still go into the clash in flying form - winning six of their seven friendlies and scoring 24 goals in the process.

Warren Morgan is expect-



Lifeline: James Cottee fires home Corinthian Casuals' second equaliser to make it 2-2 at King George's Field on Saturday before Josh Gallagher hit the winner. Casuals twice came from behind in the match after Shelton Gooden twice gave Ks the lead

Pictures: Stuart Tree

ed to be fit for the weekend, despite being taken off midway through Saturday's win with heat exhaustion.

And the manager believes his men are more than prepared for the opening day.

"The weather didn't help in terms of the intensity that you want them to show," he added.

"When you have one of the lads come off from being sick on the pitch because it's so hot, it tells you how difficult it was out there.

"We got better as the game progressed and ultimately, we have to be happy with the overall performance and the victory.

"I'm never too concerned about what other teams are



Double: Shelton Gooden, left, celebrates his second goal

doing as we'll concentrate on our own game.

"We'll make sure we're doing things right and then as the season progresses, we'll

look at how others are shaping up and address anything from there."

Selachii LLP are the club's new shirt sponsors.

Ks new boy adds steel



Tough: Danny Gallagher

KINGSTONIAN assistant boss Graham Harper reckons the arrival of AFC Wimbledon youngster Danny Gallagher is just the tonic ahead of the Ryman Premier Division kick-off at Harlow Town on Saturday.

The 19-year-old signed a one-month loan deal with the Kingsmeadow non-League last week playing a part in defeats to Hampton & Richmond Borough and Corinthian Casuals.

"Danny is a tough tackling, physical midfielder and exactly the sort of player we feel we need," said Harper.

Poly pull up well short

Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers' final day British Athletics League Division Two trip to Nottingham proved a step too far on Saturday.

Team boss Chris Hall's men headed to the Midlands knowing if they finished the match ahead of second-placed Swansea Harriers they would be promoted to Division One.

But Kingston secured only one A string event win on the day through 3,000m steeplechaser Daniel Eckersley as they finished the match seventh with 251 points - 22.5 adrift of third-placed

Swansea.

Cardiff AAC claimed the league title with the match win, while Kingston were confirmed as third place finishers in the final standings of an otherwise successful campaign.

The pre-season target had been to avoid relegation, but the end of the season leaves them ranked as the 19th best men's team in the country.

Kingston's men and women host their final Southern Athletics League Division Two West meeting of the summer on August 20 with a slim chance of a top two finish.

SPORTSbrief

CRICKET: Kingstonian's star batsman Jahangir Mirza (70) and captain Amir Hussain (63*) secured a thrilling one wicket win at Old Hamptonians to put their side within touching distance of promotion to Surrey Championship Division Three on Saturday. The Division Four leaders chased down the hosts' 267-6 thanks to an unbroken 42-run last wicket partnership as Ks got home with a ball to spare. Old Hamptonians had seemed set for victory as Cole Campbell's 112 set a healthy target for the visitors, who are now 70 points clear of third-placed Cobham Avonians with four games to play. Kingstonian head to struggling Farncombe this weekend.

ROWING: Surbiton's Moe Sbihi and his Team GB men's coxless four crew laid down a marker for Olympic gold with a comfortable win in their heat on Monday. The quartet had been due to start their campaign on Sunday, but poor weather in Rio saw their race delayed by 24 hours. Sbihi, Alex Gregory, Constantine Louloudis and George Nash were due to take on France, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Belarus in Wednesday's semi-final.

FOOTBALL: Kingstonian assistant Graham Harper has confirmed former Tooting & Mitcham United defender Adam Thompson is looking for new club. Thompson featured extensively during Ks' pre-season schedule but has not done enough to force his way into a squad that already boasts Alan Inns, Sam Page, Bruce Hogg and Max Hustwick at centre back.

SWIMMING: Kingston Royals teenager Dylan Conway finished outside the medals at the ASA National Swimming Championships in Sheffield last week. Conway clocked two minutes 32.11 seconds to finish fifth in the 16-year-old boys 200m breaststroke on Tuesday before finishing seventh in the 200m individual medley final on Wednesday clocking 2:16.51 in the process.

FOOTBALL: Kingstonian will travel to Ryman Premier Division rivals net Police in the Surrey Senior Cup second round. Corinthian Casuals will make the trip to Egham Town. The matches are scheduled to take place before December 1.

PARKRUN: Robin Boon set a new personal best of 19 minutes 11 seconds to win the Kingston event on Saturday. Cheryl Sack clocked 21:03 to win the women's race as she finished 15th overall.

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